

ChildLine

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The newsletter of the Uganda AIDS Orphan Children Foundation

www.UAOCF.org

Inspirational Children

Twelve-year-old Regina has been in the UAOCF program since she was just seven. She has been an orphan as long as she can remember. Both her parents died of AIDS; Regina was just an infant when she lost her mother. She has done well in the UAOCF program, as we hope all our children will. But there is something about her that sets her apart. All of our children express gratitude in their letters, but Regina's letters communicate something exceptional. To her, the care her UAOCF sponsors provide really represents the love of parents, something she has never experienced before. She writes, "Your love for me is like honey. Your love is like a flowing river. Your love shines like a morning

star." We find Regina's story truly moving, because it's what our organization is really about. UAOCF provides her with a good education, which is critical for her future. But she receives so much more! Through her sponsors' support, she feels the loving care of a parent, which is so important to every child. That love inspires her, and she inspires all of us.

Benjamin H. is also twelve, and inspiring for a different reason. His father died when he was just two years old, leaving his mother to care for him and his four older siblings on her own. Even compared to other children in our program, Benjamin has suffered extraordinary losses, as you will see. But he does not dwell on his suffering. Rather, he takes it all in stride and even treats it rather casually: "Holidays were good, except that it rained...I helped to fetch water and even collecting fire



Benjamin with his prosthetic leg – looking like any other happy child.

wood. And I thank you for giving me the artificial leg." Yes! At the end of 2008, Benjamin fractured his foot and suffered complications; doctors had to remove the foot to save his life. UAOCF ensured that he received a prosthetic leg, which has allowed him to do chores and other things like any other boy. It is rather astonishing that he does not focus on losing his leg; he writes that he is just happy to be in school like other children. His story certainly gives one perspective. Benjamin's grace and courage are an example we can all learn from.

A Distinguished Visitor

UAOCF's Los Angeles-based management committee coordinates closely with Uganda-based colleagues to help guide our priorities, select the children who will become part of our program, and oversee our operations. This committee is led by its Chairman, Bishop Callist Rubaramira. In July, we were pleased and honored to host a visit by Bishop Rubaramira to Los Angeles. The Bishop met with our management committee and was the guest of honor at a gathering for some of UAOCF's largest donors. He expressed his overwhelming gratitude to all of our donors for the work that you make possible. Pictures of many of our children decorated the event; admiring them, the Bishop exclaimed, "Just look at them! Look at the difference you have made! They look so smart!" He emphasized the immediate emotional impact this has on the children: they go to school like other children, they



Bishop Callist with reception hosts Mary Jo and Bill McKenna

have their uniforms and look like other children, and so finally they can feel like normal children. Given their painful and often stigmatized past, this is a new and powerful experience. To all of UAOCF's supporters, the Bishop offered his most sincere thanks on behalf of our children.

If you would like to adopt a child (\$350 a year) or send a donation in any amount, please make your check payable to UAOCF and mail it to: P.O. Box 64485, Los Angeles, CA 90064. Or call 310-479-8396. You can also donate with a credit card on our website: www.UAOCF.org.

More Bang for Your Buck

Goldman, Sacks & Co. Bank of America. Johnson & Johnson. What do all of these companies have in common? They are among the many that do charitable matching: for every dollar their employees donate to a charity like UAOCF, they contribute as well. Some companies match dollar for dollar, some less. And some give two dollars for every employee dollar donated, tripling the donation! All three of the companies listed have matched employee donations to UAOCF. So far this year, that has resulted in \$1600 in company donations! Does your company offer charitable matching? If you don't know, please ask! It's another easy way to support our children without digging deeper into your own pockets. We are happy to provide any documentation your employer might require for their charitable matching program.



Email: admin@UAOCF.org

Winners All Around

Success! That's how we describe our first-ever raffle. At \$5 each, we sold almost 1000 tickets! This is particularly impressive given the short timeline we had to plan the raffle and sell the tickets. In these tough economic times, these extra funds are more important than ever to help us continue to provide for our children. To all who bought tickets, donated prizes or gave their time and energy to help make the raffle such a hit, we thank you! Check out the list of prizes, donors and winners.

Prize	Donated By:	Winner
Apple I-Pad	Hudson & Gibson families	Sandra Turner
Diamond earrings	Juana Ayala	John Erb
Angel baseball package w/ Toro sushi certificate	Brian Sanders & Alan Lau	Paul Methot
Dodger tickets	Myrna Duran	Claire Grady
Disneyland tickets	Cassie & Paul Bull	Kathy Nagata
Tony P's Dockside Grill certificate	Tony P & Larry McNamee	Eileen Gaffney
California Pizza Kitchen certificate	Pat & Chuck Wallace	Ed Halton
California Pizza Kitchen certificate	Pat & Chuck Wallace	Esther Smith
John Peri Salon certificate	Lani Lee	Melisa Dougherty
Wet/dry auto vacuum	Bob & Carol Gallion	Joe Demer
Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens	Huntington Library	Tracy Phal

Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.

Jane Goodall



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Really Painless Giving

It's that time of year again! No, we're not talking about the back-to-school rush. It's time to renew your registration with the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. For those who don't know, anyone with a Ralphs card can register it in support of us; Ralphs will then donate a percentage of those sales to UAOCF. It doesn't cost you a penny extra, and what a difference it makes to us! How much difference? Almost \$500 in just six months. And that's with only about 30 supporters signed up! Just imagine how many more children we could help if all of our supporters registered with this Ralphs program!

Even if you registered before, you need to re-register every year, any time after August 31. How? People registered in the past may have received a scanbar letter from Ralphs in the mail; if you did, just take it with you to your local Ralphs and give it to a cashier to scan. You can also download a scanbar letter from our website (www.UAOCF.org/painless_giving.html). If you prefer to register online, you can download instructions on our site for how to register via Ralphs.com. It really is painless giving – so please register!

Number Tracker

As of August, 2010, UAOCF:

- supports 313 orphans
- **10 orphans need sponsors!**

Supporters Honored

“Bene Merenti” is a Latin phrase which means “To the well deserving.” It is also the name of an award conferred by the Pope to recognize outstanding service to one's local community. UAOCF is very proud to announce that two great friends of our organization have been honored with this award: Keith Albi and Magna Gibbs. Magna was one of our earliest supporters and helped launch UAOCF. Keith, together with his wife Cecilia, has “adopted” twenty UAOCF children. Both Keith and Magna actively participate in and contribute to their communities in many other important ways as well. Congratulations! It is well deserved indeed.